

REMARKS

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-16 and 22-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by QUIGLEY et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0055319); and allows claims 17, 19-21, and 41. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 17, 19-21, and 41 are allowed, but respectfully traverses the rejection.

By way of the present amendment, Applicant proposes canceling claims 1-16 and 27-40 without prejudice or disclaimer and amending claims 22 and 41 to improve form and in order to place the application in condition for immediate allowance. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Claims 17, 19-26, and 41 would remain pending upon entry of this amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) based on QUIGLEY et al.

Pending claims 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by QUIGLEY et al. Applicant proposes amending claim 22 to recite features similar to the features recited in claim 41, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable. As such, Applicant submits that claim 22 is in condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 23-26 depend from claim 22. As such, Applicant submits that these claims are in condition for immediate allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing proposed amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner does not believe that all pending claims are now in condition for immediate allowance, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of this application.

Entry of the proposed amendments is respectfully requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 since the amendment does not raise new issues or require a further search of the art. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed amendment places the present application in immediate condition for allowance. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that entry of this proposed amendment would place the application in better form for appeal in the event that the application is not allowed.

As Applicant's remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections overcome the rejections, Applicant's silence as to certain assertions by the Examiner in the Office Action or certain requirements that may be applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, reasons to modify a reference and/or combine references, assertions as to dependent claims, etc.) is not a concession by Applicant that such assertions are accurate or that such requirements have been met, and Applicant reserves the right to dispute these assertions/requirements in the future.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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